

**EdBlast! — All
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Message from the State Superintendent of Education

In just a few days, our country will celebrate Labor Day. Officially marking the end of summer, this holiday honors the social and economic achievements of American workers. It is a tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well being of our nation.

From the Upstate to the Low Country, thousands of dedicated workers in South Carolina's schools are making a positive difference in the lives of children. Our state's school administrators, teachers, librarians, counselors, lunchroom workers, social workers, custodians, instructional assistants, and other support staff exemplify the characteristics that make the United States of American so great—its people.

Thank you for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. Happy Labor Day!

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In this issue:

First scores released on 'new SAT' while AP scores move to all-time highs

The College Board has released South Carolina's first-year baseline scores on its newly redesigned SAT test. The state's Advanced Placement exam scores improved to an all-time high, the College Board reported. The complete South Carolina SAT Report, including scores from all districts and high schools, is available at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/topics/assessment/scores/sat/2006/index.html>

O'Charley's honored for service to youth

O' Charley's restaurant was recognized by Palmetto Serves, a state program that honors volunteers who provide exemplary service to youth and families. To read the details, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=698>

Daniel High School physics teacher receives Disney award

Dr. Patrick Welsh, a physics teacher at D.W. Daniel High School in Central, has received the prestigious 2006 Disney Teacher Award. Recognized from among 75,000 teachers

nationwide, the Pickens County teacher was honored for his exceptional creativity, innovative teaching style and ability to inspire students. To read more go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=682>

Pledges sought for participation in Family Day

TV Land, Nick at Nite, and the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University are appealing to millions of Americans to support “Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children.” The observance day is planned for September 24. Participants share one meal with loved ones, be it breakfast, lunch, or dinner. For more information, log on to:

<http://www.familytable.info>

Council on economic education offering workshops

The South Carolina Council on Economic Education is offering several free workshops for teachers. Topics for the one-day workshops include math and economics connections, economics and history integration, and personal finance. A four-day residential workshop will help middle and high school teachers develop an understanding of how market solutions may be used to deal with environmental issues. For more information, contact Donna Windham at (803) 777-2968 and visit:

<http://www.sceconomics.org/>

Principal Induction Program accepting applications for fall institute

The State Department of Education’s Principal Induction Program focuses on individual and team organizational development. A requirement for newly appointed principals, the program provides training in leadership and management skills essential to success in the principalship. Sponsored by the Office of School Leadership, the program’s fall institute will be held September 24-28 at the Mandren Center at Clemson University. Registration deadline is September 11. For program inquiries, contact Brenda Boykin (bboykin@ed.sc.gov) at 803-734-8561 or Jacquelyn FrostBurnett, (jfrostbu@ed.sc.gov) at 803-734-3263. For logistics questions, contact Beverly Brosnan (brosna@clemson.edu) at 864-656-4444.

Science Academic Standards Support Guide now available

The South Carolina Science Academic Standards Support Guide is now available on-line. Developed in cooperation with South Carolina educators, this publication is a helpful resource for educators trying to implement standards-based science instruction. To view the document, visit:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/science/sd.html>

United States Senate Youth Program offering scholarships

The United States Senate Youth Program, funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is again offering scholarships and recognition to South Carolina's juniors and seniors. The competition is open to students who currently serve in an elected student government capacity and who otherwise qualify as specified in the USSYP brochure. For additional information, contact Beth Cope (bcope@ed.sc.gov) or visit the Foundation's website:

<http://www.usenateyouth.org>

“Poetry Out Loud” deadline approaching

“Poetry Out Loud” begins at the classroom level, with winners from each classroom advancing to a school-wide competition. Sponsored in this state by the Arts Commission, the competition will be held in mid-March. Ultimately, one student from each state will compete in the national finals in Washington, DC in late April. The program satisfies more than half of the National Council of Teachers of English English/Language Arts standards as well as many of the South Carolina English/Language Arts standards. The deadline to sign up is September 29. For additional information, contact Theresa J. Wallace (twallace@arts.state.sc.us) at 803-734-8639, or visit:

<http://www.poetryoutloud.org>

Medieval Times plans education extravaganza

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament in Myrtle Beach will hold its first Education Extravaganza on September 23 from 11 am- 2 pm, with educational performances at 11:45 am and 12:45 pm. This event is free and limited to teachers from North and South Carolina. Reservations are necessary. For more information, call Jennifer Willard (Jennifer.willard@medievaltimes.com) at (843) 236-8080, extension 133, or visit

<http://www.medievaltimes.com>

Late registrations taken for State Fair art exhibition

The late registration period for this year’s State Fair Art Exhibition is from August 31– September 6. Registrants will be assessed a \$25 late fee. Regular registrations were accepted during the month of August. The fair will be held October 11-22. Each exhibitor is limited to one piece of artwork. Rules, entry instructions, and registration information is available at:

<http://www.scstatefair.org/competitive-exhibits/art/student-art/index.php>

Walk to School Day is October 4

International Walk to School Day is a global event where children, adults, schools, and communities come together to raise awareness about walking issues. It is an excellent way to promote physical activity, teach traffic safety skills, and identify and implement steps toward safer communities for walking and bicycling. For information about Walk to School Day in South Carolina, including free materials for participating schools, contact Amy Splittgerber or visit:

<http://www.scwalktoschool.org>

Grant writing workshop planned

The last of four identical sessions of the State Department of Education's grant writing workshop series, "From Reading the Guidelines to Submitting the Proposal," will be held September 20-22. The registration deadline is 5:00 p.m., September 8. For additional information, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/grants/2006GrantWritingWorkshopSeries.html>

School Boards Association sponsors awards

The South Carolina School Boards Association is seeking nominations for its 2006 Legislative Advocacy Program of the Year award. To be eligible, programs must have operated for the most recent legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly. The award will be presented at the organization's conference December 1-3 on Hilton Head, and the deadline for application is September 30. For additional information, contact Debbie Elmore (delmore@scsba.state.sc.us) at 800-326-3679.

September honoree is broadcaster and documentary filmmaker

The biggest moment of Dr. M. Maceo Nance's 19-year tenure as president of S.C. State University came early, within his first year at the helm. In 1968, three S.C. State students were killed by state Highway patrolmen. The tragic confrontation between students and state troopers took place during a student-led protest of an Orangeburg bowling alley and its policy of racial segregation. The officers opened fire in an incident remembered as the Orangeburg Massacre. To read more about Nance, visit:

<http://scafricanamerican.com/ed/12006.html>

This issue's quotation

“Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop.” – Ovid

EdBlast! welcomes submissions

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to jfairnot@ed.sc.gov or call Janice Larrimore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

Spread the word about EdBlast!

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

Thanks for sharing!